

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A both-side recording apparatus including a sheet conveying roller, a recording unit and a sheet inversion unit, comprising:

5 a first sheet path extending from said sheet conveying roller through said sheet inversion unit and returning to said sheet conveying roller;

 a second sheet path extending substantially linearly at an upstream side of said sheet conveying
10 roller;

 wherein said first sheet path and said second sheet path commonly share a part thereof.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
15 said second sheet path is so formed as to maintain a position of a recording medium in said recording unit, positioned adjacent to said sheet conveying roller.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further
20 comprising:

 a movable flap provided in said shared part of the sheet paths and serving to select said first sheet path or said second sheet path.

25 4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said movable flap is so biased as to normally guide the recording medium into said first sheet path, and

is retracted when a recording medium of a predetermined rigidity or higher passes, thereby guiding the recording medium to said second sheet path.

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5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second sheet path is provided between two inversion rollers in said sheet inversion unit.

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